

23 Apr	(Sat)	6.00pm Meet Our Member of Parliament, at Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall – page 8
24 Apr	(Sun)	(The Fifth Sunday of Easter) – full service details – page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
26 Apr	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club
27 Apr	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club.
		7.30pm Abbotts Ann Green Action AGM - page 15
28 Apr	(Thurs)	7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
		7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall.- page 14
		MAY 2016
1 May	(Sun)	(The Sixth Sunday of Easter) – full service details page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
2 May	(Mon)	(Bank Holiday Monday)
		2.00pm Upper Clatford & Anna Valley May Fayre, on Balkesbury Bridge Playing Field.
3 May	(Tues)	7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
4 May	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
5 May	(Thurs)	7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in Abbotts Ann Village Hall
		7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church.
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
		10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
8 May	(Sun)	(The Seventh Sunday of Easter)
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
9 May	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
10 May	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
11 May	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club.
		7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall
12 May	(Thur)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
14 May	(Fri)	7.00pm Piano and organ recital, All Saints' church - page 22
15 May	(Sun)	(Sunday – The Day of Pentecost) – Whit Sunday
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
		12noon deadline for receipt of copy for the June 2016 Abbotts Ann Magazine
		Magazine.editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk
17 May	(Tue)	10.00am in St Peter's Room – Goodworth Clatford Community Coffee Morning.
		7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in GCVC – Annual Meeting
18 May	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club.
		7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall , Annual Mtg.
19 May	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbotts Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside Abbotts Ann, we offer a postal subscription service if 12 SAE's are provided. If you would like to take out a subscription, please contact Pam Lytle on 01264 710468, email: plytle2@tiscali.co.uk

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

Rector	Vacant	
Ministry Team (During the Vacancy)	Revd. Nicky Judd clive@judd47.plus.com Tim Tayler tim.tayler@talk21.com Peter Eastwood peter@eastwood.me.uk	729075 710201 353320
Churchwardens		
St Mary's	Gordon Howard 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbotts Ann g_w_eo Howard@btinternet.com Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane, Abbotts Ann	710830 710640
St Peter's	Jane Eastwood John Milne	353320 361206
All Saints'	Eleanor Jakeman Bill Mitford	362502 357675
Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website - http://www.abbotsann.com/amenitiesservices/church/		
Choir Practice	Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford	
Bell Ringing practice	Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's, Abbotts Ann Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month Tower Captain: Dudley Alleyway	710646
Secretary	Parochial Church Council Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
Treasurer (Temporary)	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery	710640
Editor	Abbotts Ann Magazine Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk	710630
Advertising Manager	Mark Stevens	710908

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN APRIL 2016

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date:

St Mary's Duties:

Sunday 27th March

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.30 Sung Family Eucharist
11.00 Sung Family HC by Extension
11.00 Sung Family Eucharist

Easter Day

St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (NJ) Mr/Mrs G Howard

Sunday 3rd April

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
10.00 Family Service
18.00 Evensong

Second Sunday of Easter

St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (TT)

Sunday 10th April

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.30 Sung Eucharist
11.15 Matins
18.00 Evensong

Third Sunday of Easter

All Saimts' (NJ)
St Mary's (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (Peggy Ellis)

Sunday 17th April

8.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
10.00 Tercentenary Celebration
18.00 Evensong

Fourth Sunday of Esster

St Mary's (NJ)
St Peter's (NJ)
St Mary's (Archdeacon ?)
All Saints' (PE)

Sunday 24th April

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Family Eucharist
18.00 Evensong

Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Mary's (Andrew Ashdown)
All Saints' (Andrew Ashdown)
St Peter's (PE)

Sunday 1st May

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
10.00 Family Service
11.30 Baptism
18.00 Evensong

Sixth Sunday of Easter

St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (TT)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Mary's (PE)

Anyone unable to carry out their duty and who cannot exchange with another sidesman please contact Kate Bennett or Wendy Casson on 712028. Please note that services are provisional as changes can sometimes be made at short notice. Please check the Sunday Link Sheet.

*Revd Nicky Judd (NJ) Tim Tayler (TT) Peter Eastwood (PE) Choir (CH)

GARDEN COMPETITION - THREADGILL CUP

Liz Dell has taken over the organisation of the garden competition this year. Look out for further information in the next parish magazine and at the plant sale on 28th May. Please contact her for details on lizdell.48@gmail.com or 711051

BENEFICE DIARY - APRIL 2016

3 Apr	(Sun)	(The Second Sunday of Easter) Full service details – page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quizz, Abbotts Ann
4 Apr	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
5 Apr	(Tues)	7.30pm in the Meadow Room, All Saints' Annual Parochial Church Council Mtg.
6 Apr	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
7 Apr	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning 10.00am Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Naomi House and Jacksplace Hospices, Upper Clatford Memorial Hall. 7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in AA War Memorial Hall
8 Apr	(Fri)	7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's Quiet Day at Hilfield Friary 5pm-7pm Pizza Night - page 18
9 Apr	(Sat)	7.00pm Annual Parish Assembly – page 9 7.00pm Harlequin concert St Peter's Church - page 21
10 Apr	(Sun)	The Watermill Theatre comes to Goodworth Clatford Village Club. (The Third Sunday of Easter) – full service details – page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
11 Apr	(Mon)	7.30pm in St Peter's Room, St Peter's Annual Parochial Church Council Mtg
12 Apr	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
13 Apr	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club. 7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall
14 Apr	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
15 Apr	(Fri)	12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy for the May 2016 Abbotts Ann Magazine Magazine.editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk 10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
16 Apr	(Sat)	10.00am at the Village Shop, new footpath inaugural walk - page 15 1.00pm Jumble Sale at Abbotts Ann Primary School - page 16
17 Apr	(Sun)	(The Fourth Sunday of Easter) – Celebrating St Mary's Church building - full service details page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
18 Apr	(Mon)	7.30pm Brooklyn, Film Night, Upper Clatford - page 24
19 Apr	(Tues)	10.00am in St Peter's Room – Goodworth Clatford Community Coffee Morning.
20 Apr	(Wed)	7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club 7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club.
21 Apr	(Thurs)	7.30pm St Mary's Abbotts Ann Annual Parochial Church Meeting AAWMH - P17 7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
23 Apr	(Sat)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's 3.00pm St George's Day Tea in aid of The Children's Society at The Old Rectory, Upper Clatford. - page 23

Our next production, directed by Will Johnson, is:



Fast-paced and full of laugh-out-loud moments, the story races along. Eric is a property landlord who uses and abuses his tenants for his own benefit. His wife suspects his methods and motives and firmly grasps the wrong end of the stick. According to journalist Katy Lewis '*This is farce, pure and simple, nothing more and nothing less. It's written by Michael Cooney, son of the legendary farce master Ray. He's obviously picked up loads of tips from dad and then added to them to extract every ounce of confusion from the tale, in a comedy that turns increasingly more ridiculous and bizarre!*'

Tickets available soon

Over 90 members & guests attended our Music Quiz on 12th March – great fun! Our thanks go to members Glyn and Karen Lindley who create and deliver a really professional production.

BVP policy is to distribute money raised from sales of raffle tickets at BVP productions to charity:

In 2015, £562 was shared between 'Cruse Bereavement Care' & 'Friends of Mark Way School'.

'Andover Mind' and 'Andover Young Carers' are our chosen charities for 2016.

For more information on Burdock Valley Players, look us up through the following media:



facebook.com/BurdockValley



[@burdockvalley](https://twitter.com/burdockvalley)



www.burdockvalleyplayers.com
info@burdockvalleyplayers.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All articles printed in the Abbotts Ann Magazine are printed in good faith and are not necessarily the views of the Editor. All contributions must be accompanied by a full name and email address which may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to amend all contributions. Please support our advertisers; they support the magazine.

Dear Friends

God speaking through creation or the natural world means that when we look up at the stars or gaze at a Hampshire hill covered with wild flowers, we see the fingerprints of God. The more we fix our eyes on the wonder of creation, the more we must believe that these things could not possibly just make themselves. Both the intricate design of creation and the way the universe appears to be fine-tuned for life shout out that this is no accident. Think about this: If the electromagnetic force in atoms were weakened by a mere 4 percent, then the sun would immediately explode. If it were stronger, there would be fewer stable atoms. Oxygen level in our atmosphere is 21% - if it dropped there would be no animal life; if it reached 25% most plants would be consumed by fire. Our sun is just the right size to allow life to develop, and we are not so close that our orbit shows only one face to the sun, so that one side would be too hot to sustain life and the other too cold. Surely this is brilliant design!

God doesn't just speak through the order and design we find in creation, but also through the amazing beauty that surrounds us. Jane and I visited Australia and New Zealand last year and were overwhelmed by the variety of animals, trees, flowers and scenery we experienced. We felt that God was speaking to us through his masterpieces, when we watched with awe, the waves pound against the rocks at the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki, and saw the hot springs and geysers at Rotarua. We had the same feeling when we held our newborn baby granddaughter Abigail for the first time upon our return. From something as mundane as a flock of geese travelling over our house at midnight this week, to the spectacular views of the stars on a crisp winter night, creation doesn't just tell us that a Creator exists, but that this Creator is an artist without peer.

Psalm 19:1-4 puts it this way: ***"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."***

We are surrounded by God's miracles! Every animal is a miracle in itself. Think of these examples. The little one pound bird the Godwit flew 7,145 miles in 9 days without stopping at an average speed of 38.4mph! It made a round trip of 16,500 miles ending where it began without a map, compass, or a parent to guide it! Scientists have no answer for how it does it. The amazing cuttlefish which can change its colour to perfectly match its background even though it is colour blind. How do they do it? We have no idea! The brilliantly designed giraffe with its 20lb heart capable of pumping blood up to its brain 8ft higher, but still can maintain correct blood pressure when it lowers

its head to drink by a complicated valve system, the ability to run at 34mph and yet need only 30 minutes sleep a day! Wonderful!

But we don't have to travel to see miracles. They are all around us in our beautiful villages. The wonderful scenery, which can change according to the time of year – Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn all bring amazing variations. Even the time of day brings changes – we had sunshine, hail, snow and rain all in the space of half an hour recently! What a wonderful world God has given us to live in! Let's enjoy it and praise the One who made it for us! On behalf of your Ministry Team may God bless us all.

Peter

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

Harry Stephen Timothy Woodhouse at St Peter's on 28th February

Holy Matrimony

Edward Michael Davis and Rachael Larissa Ashdown at All Saints on 31st January (with apologies to Rachael for the mistakes in her name last month)

Rest in Peace

Dennis Wilfred Newnham "Oscar" at St Peter's on 26th February

Barbara May at All Saints on 3rd March

Phyllis Audrey May Sharp at Basingstoke Crematorium on 11th March

If you do not wish to have the information from the registers published, would you please contact Rev. Nicky Judd on 01264 729075.

ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOWERS - AND HOLY DUSTING ROTA

We are so grateful to you all for giving up your time to the Church. Here is the rota. If the dates are inconvenient and you are unable to change with someone else, please ring Sylvia Burson (710852) for flowers and Jill Tayler (710201) for dusting.



Dates:

25 Mar - 7 Apr
8 Apr - 21 Apr
22 Apr - 5 May
6 May - 19 May
20 May - 2 Jun
3 Jun - 16 Jun
17 Jun - 30 Jun

Flowers:

Easter
Sylvia Burson
Pamela Graham
Sue Hancock
Janis Bulpitt
Anne Jones
Pat Keene

Dusting:

Jill Tayler
Wendy Casson
Wendy Alleway
Pauline Cooper
Peta Chattell
Gill Page
Alex Pugh

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - FEBRUARY 2016

February is an odd month with the meandering jet stream being blamed for the mild weather and the swing to very cold weather. I suppose that something has to be blamed.

Despite the still-long nights, some days feel quite Spring like and we can see buds beginning to burst into life everywhere; the elder appears to be most prolific. As we are playing in the garden one day, 'Gerald Durrell' asks if I can reach up to get a nest down from a tree. I haven't noticed it before but she has been watching it all winter. Having checked that it is highly unlikely that any bird ever returns to an old nest, other than to take material to build a new nest, I agree to do it. It is nestled snugly in between a couple of branches and as I pick it up, I can see how tiny and exquisite it is. It is only 6cm across and I'm pretty sure that it once belonged to a chaffinch. They make their nests from grass, moss and feathers bound with spider's webs and lined with feathers and wool, decorated with lichen and bark. The one we found even has horse hair woven into it. (I have a photo of it on my website.) Six million pairs nest here every year making the chaffinch the UK's second most common breeding bird. They are easily spotted with their dusky pink breast, grey-blue cap and when it flies, the white flash on their wings and tail feathers identifies them. We hope that they will find another nesting place this year.

At the bird feeder, a wide variety of birds return including several 'favourites'. The tiny long tailed tits arrive in an excited, chattering flock and perform impressive acrobatic feats hanging upside down on branches. Not to be outdone, the nuthatch returns to impress, as it descends the tree trunk head first, passing the equally extraordinary tree creeper who climbs directly up the trunk. The cock pheasant continues to visit at least twice a day and bizarrely appears to live alongside our cats and kittens. The kittens have made a rush for it a couple of times - the excitement of seeing something that impressive is just too tempting, but as the pheasant 'runs' away flapping its rich chestnut wings and calling its 'kok kok kok' sound, the kittens run back to the safety of the kitchen. The pheasant then returns to its feeding. We have a bird's eye(!) view of all this activity as we eat breakfast or lunch together and it is glorious, nature's living television - perfect for me to give a quick lesson in bird spotting too!

On the way back from dinner one evening, I find my first live frog of the year. It is sitting in the middle of the driveway. Just a common frog, but beautiful all the same; olive green with dark splodges all over it - as if the Littlest has had a go at painting some spots. Definitely a sign surely, that winter is past.

Mother of the Tribe - www.lifewiththetribe.com



Monday 18th April at 7.30pm

Brooklyn

Village Hall, Upper Clatford

Bar

Tickets: £5

For more information, contact:
Sylvia Kennedy Tel: 323226

CONCERTS IN STOCKBRIDGE

THE ALAUDA STRING QUARTET (Royal Academy of Music)

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL

TOWN HALL, STOCKBRIDGE, 7.30 PM
(doors open 6.45pm for drinks)

FUTURE CONCERTS FOR 2016

September 17th Index Cantorum Choir
October 15th David Owen Norris Piano Recital
(1828 Broadwood Grand)

AQUAFIT AT FARLEIGH SCHOOL

THIS IS GREAT FUN - WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY!

Mondays 10.15 - 11.00 am
Starting Monday 18th April - £6.00 per session



Due to lack of support, the Tuesday evening class has been discontinued.

Further details email
roslynswim@hotmail.co.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

'From Beersheba in the Negev Desert to the source of the River Jordan at Banias, join us on a 13-day pilgrimage to the land of the Living Stones, the streets where Jesus walked.'

From September 14th - 26th 2016 visit Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus, Tiberias, Nazareth, Capernaum, Tabgha, Acre and Caesarea Maritime. Let the Land speak as the "Fifth Gospel", challenging and changing our faith as we meet the people and see the places.'

For more information please look at the website www.mccabe-travel.co.uk or e-mail the Revd. Alison Shaw on alishaw2001@yahoo.co.uk or contact Nicky Judd on clive@judd47.plus.com or 01264 729075.

ANDOVER STREET PASTORS

Street Pastors in Andover are about to celebrate 5 years of service to the community. On Saturday 23rd April they are holding an open day at Bridge Street Methodist Church – do call in and see how Street Pastors look out for the vulnerable, help those who have drunk too much to sober up and get home safely, head off confrontations or behaviour likely to lead to Police action, and encourage door staff and all helping to keep the 'night time economy' safe.

There is an urgent need for more Street Pastors and also Prayer Pastors who are a resource back at the Methodist Church base. The work is greatly appreciated by the majority of those on the streets and by the Police. People sometimes think it must be dangerous work. In fact the greatest danger comes from being hugged by those who seem particularly to value their 'grandparent generation' to which many of the volunteers belong!

The Street Pastor Training Course is excellent and anyone who is interested in becoming a Street Pastor can ask to go out as an 'observer' to see what it is really like. Please contact the Revd Graham Trasler for more information: Costadelanton@gmail.com or 01264 359843

A Big Thank you to all who supported the Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening 2016.

I am thrilled to say that with your input the Coffee Morning alone raised over £300 (I am still waiting for some boxes to arrive) so the grand total will be published in the May Parish magazine.

A very special thank you to the pourers, sellers and counters.

Kate Bennett

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS – MARCH 2016

It is unfortunate that we often spend more time visiting places far afield rather than getting to know our own locality! I wonder how many of us in Abbotts Ann are unfamiliar with at least some of its small acreage. If you don't take part in sports, walk dogs, ride horses, belong to organizations, or if you are busy at work all week, or frequently away on foreign trips, there may be no reason - or free time - to get to know the roads off your daily-beaten track.

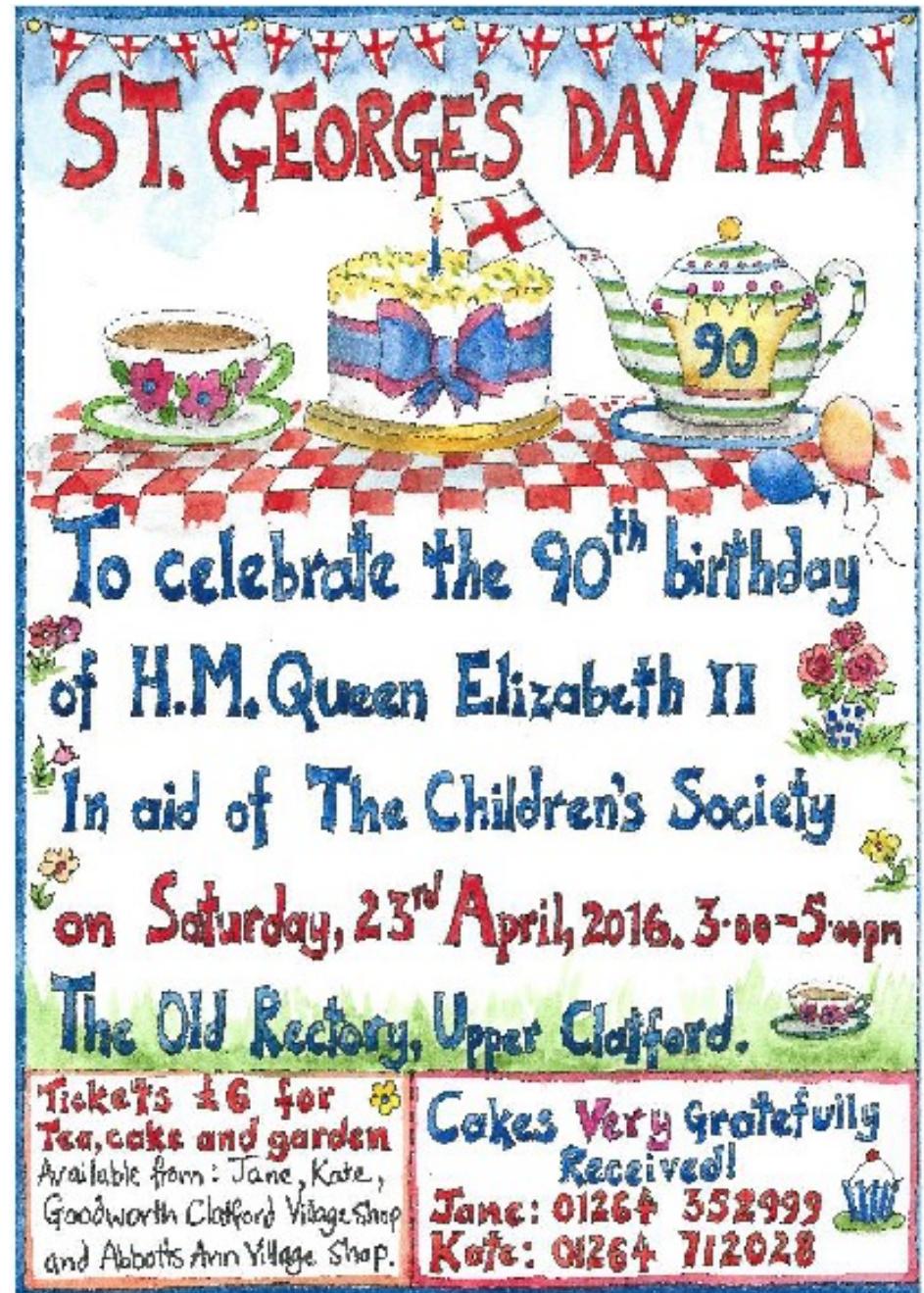
For me, at least, the March meeting of the Parish Council at Burghclere Down Community Centre was a chance to see a part of the parish that I had not, in eight years of living here, had occasion to visit. The Centre facilities are welcoming, with helpful information leaflets and notice boards inside the entrance hall, and good parking. I hope the Council will schedule more meetings there in the coming months.

Cllr Beth Deacon (Chairman), and Cllr Susie Bleeker, were absent, but Vice-Chairman Cllr Elizabeth Howard controlled the meeting with calm firmness and efficiency so that all business was concluded pleasantly and well within the scheduled time.

Burghclere Down residents asked about progress on issues they had previously placed before the Council. It was revealed that the involvement of three separate builders in the original construction may have caused some strange anomalies. For instance, the running costs of one particular street light seemed to be the responsibility of a private resident. Neighbours felt it important for public safety that this light be maintained in working order. Hampshire County Councillor Andrew Gibson promised to investigate further, as provision of street lighting is normally under the County Council's aegis. Research of the original developers' plans may reveal who is responsible for what.

Andover Town Councillor Christopher Ecclestone was present at the meeting, having an interest in Burghclere Down through his involvement with the Andover town boundary review working party. At the end of March, Andover Town Council will be discussing a scheme which could eventually involve Burghclere Down becoming part of Andover rather than Abbotts Ann. He emphasised that the parishes would have to agree to this.

The Parish Council warmly welcomed Bernard and Carol Readman as the new Footpaths Officers. They will be keeping an official eye on the state of the parish paths and will be able to notify the Parish Council of any problems. Residents of Burghclere Down present were pleased to hear of the new footpath running from the Garden Centre towards Andover. This permissive path, much-needed for pedestrian safety, has been granted to the Parish Council by the Family Burnfield, after a great deal of administrative and physical contribution from, among others, John and Julie Moon, and Ray Lucas.





Homing Enquiries 0345 2601501 or
www.andovercats.org.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers 07733 242196 or
coord@andovercats.org.uk
Items for resale 01256-892773

We are looking for a volunteer to be our Treasurer. It isn't a big commitment, a couple of hours a week perhaps. An online accounting program is provided by our Head Office. You would need to live locally in order to collect money and take it to the bank every month.

We spent a very enjoyable Valentine weekend running a raffle at Andover Garden Centre. The Garden Centre gave us some prizes and we raised £127.

Cloudy and Digger have found a lovely home. It is nice to think that there are people out there who care about elderly cats. Digger is now friendly and purry but her sister is still very nervous.



Rambo, this month's cat, doesn't really live up to his name. He is very large and strong but is a friendly cat and dribbles a lot when purring. He definitely doesn't like other cats. He is about 5 years old and was found straying.

Martin Bevan

**The pleasure of your company
is requested for**

A piano and organ recital by Carl Bahoshy

In aid of 'Iraqi Christians in Need'

**Saturday 14 May at 7.00pm
All Saints' Church, Upper Clatford**

Ticket £10 (to include interval refreshments)

Tickets are available from: Jane Kennedy (tel 323804)
Sylvia Kennedy (323226) Betty Armstrong,
Emily Fabricius, Margaret Prior
Or by reservation via email janelkennedy@tiscali.co.uk

The Parish Council has resolved to proceed with the "adoption" of the red telephone box in the village. The previous Council had applied to buy it from BT, having calculated they could scrape together the £1.00 purchase price, but BT had then changed its mind and decided to keep it for the time being. There is now another opportunity, and it is hoped this time all will go well. A Burghclere Down resident suggested using it for a book-exchange, and I am sure the Council would welcome other imaginative ideas...

The saga of the second village defibrillator may at last be drawing to a happy conclusion. Although it seems the British Heart Foundation scheme, diligently pursued by Cllr Susie Bleeker, may not now be bountifully-disposed to a community that already has a device within reach, the Parish Council does still have funds generously donated for the purpose by the previous permanent Clerk. These would have been used for a third defibrillator, had the British Heart Foundation application succeeded. The new Clerk is obtaining quotes for direct purchase and will select the cheapest package, so that the Poplar Farm Inn can install a device as soon as possible. Funding of further units for other parts of the parish, particularly Bulbery and Burghclere Down, will then be considered. Don't forget there is already one at The Eagle, in an illuminated white cabinet on the rear outside wall, ready for instant access and use.

Residents near The Green are reportedly concerned about what may or may not be planned for its use. The lease to the Parish Council from HCC includes provisions such as no buildings or allotments, but various other ideas have already been thrown into the hat, including planting an orchard and transferring the wildflower meadow. There are also those who want it just left as an open space! It was suggested a committee be established to manage The Green. This could not be resolved at the March meeting as the issue arose during "Public Participation" and was not an agenda item, but it will be discussed in April.

Did I not warn you of more committees to come?

Finally, your former Chairman, Cllr Bernard Griffiths, recently met senior engineers from Southern Water to discuss the continuing problem of water and sewage running down West Hill from an overflowing manhole near Manor Farm. They demonstrated the workings of the system, and explained that person or persons unknown have been opening manhole covers and adjusting the flow valves for their own purposes - overcoming Southern Water's padlocks in the process!

The valve operation is very sensitive; a small tweak can severely upset the balance of flow causing problems downstream. Engineers check and adjust the valve in Mill Lane every day to relieve any back-up from Monxton if necessary, without causing too fast a flow to the next pumping station. Long-term, only an imaginative engineering re-construction will solve this periodic flooding. Nothing is simple; even sealing the system from ground water

seepage during heavy rain would affect the water table and could itself cause flooding.

Checks and balances, recurring crises, self-interest - can our village sewers be a symbol of the State of the Nation?

Rosemary Groves

MEET OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

KIT MALTHOUSE

at a

Drinks Party

Saturday 23rd April 2016
6 pm to 8 pm

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

£5.00 to include a drink and nibbles

All WELCOME

Tickets at the door.

All inquiries to Michael Pugh (01264 711158)
Abbotts Ann Conservatives

BRING AND BUY PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale, in aid of fete funds, will be held at 10.00am on Saturday 28th May at the War Memorial Hall. As usual, any donations of plants will be most welcome on the day.

Additionally, we always have a small selection of other stalls eg crafts. If you are interested in hiring a stall please contact me for further details.

Anne Emerson (Show Secretary)
Home: 01264 710851
Mobile: 07788 645723

THE POST OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE: As from 14th March 2016 Royal Mail will change the daily weekday collection time from the Abbotts Ann Post Office (this includes the Post Box outside)

NEW COLLECTION TIME: 16.30 HOURS

The actual collection time might be up to ten minutes before or after this time depending on daily circumstances.

St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford
invites you to come to the church for
A Concert

by
HARLEQUIN

“CONTRASTS”

on
Friday 8th April 2016
In aid of St Peter's Church

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm

Join us for a cheerful and entertaining evening
featuring your favourite songs

Tickets £7.50
includes glass of wine or soft drink in the interval

**Tickets on sale at Clatford Village Shop,
Abbotts Ann shop and on the door**

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall Committee

Time to Renew your Subscription to the All New 100 Club!

Year April 2016 to March 2017



Time to Join the '100 Club' (if you haven't already done so) and you could be one of our lucky monthly winners!

Help support the War Memorial Hall and remember - you have to be in it to win it!!

Please complete the form below and send it with your cheque or cash to the Promoter: Gayle Wilson, Formosa, Cattle Lane, Abbotts Ann, SP11 7DS as soon as possible or before end of April. If it's easier for you, you can also drop it in the Secretary's letter box – Graham Stallard, Rose Cottage, 86 Little Ann SP11 7NW.

Please accept my application for Membership of the Abbotts Ann Memorial Hall Hundred Club. I enclose my £15.00 by Cheque(s) /Cash per subscription

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:.....

SURNAME:..... TITLE..... INITIALS.....

ADDRESS.....

SIGNED..... DATE.....

Cheques should be made payable to: Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall Committee

**A Date for your diary;
Chapter and Verse
are returning to Abbotts Ann,
Friday 17th June, 2016 at 7.00pm**

More information to follow in next month's parish magazine.



The Abbotts Ann Parish Council would like to invite you to attend

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

at

THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

on

FRIDAY 8th APRIL 2016

From 7pm to 8pm

Come and meet representatives of the Abbotts Ann Village Organisations
and have a chat with members of the Parish Council

Drinks & nibbles will be served!

From 8pm to 9pm

General Q&A session with members of the Abbotts Ann Parish Council

**Another Date for your diary;
A VILLAGE FAMILY PICNIC
On the Sports Field
To celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday**

On SUNDAY 5TH JUNE FROM 12.30PM

**Come and have fun wth your friends and family. Free entry.
Enquiries to: Pam Lytle 710468 and Alex Pugh 711158**

UPDATE ON ST MARY'S CHURCH ABBOTS ANN RESTORATION PROJECT

I am most pleased to be able to say that replacing the Nave, Chancel and Vestry roofs, plus masonry, brick work and drainage repairs were completed by the forecast completion date of 24 March 2016. Whilst the tidying up of the area around the church is still ongoing, because of the damage to both hard and grass surfaces being quite extensive, owing to the heavy work done in very wet weather, that too is going well.

I am most grateful for the efforts of G & J Banks, the main contractors, and of course to our Architect Duncan Wilson. The whole project ran very smoothly at a difficult time of year for the type of restoration work being carried out. My thanks also go to Chris Davis. Banks are based on the Isle of Wight. So to make the best use of time on site and save on traveling time they asked if we could find accommodation in the village for their workmen. On hearing this, Chris offered to put up three workmen on weekdays for the duration of the project. This proved to be a godsend. Thank you Chris and Margaret.

The new roofs can be seen from some angles, the clean black lines of the drainpipes clear and if you look closely new pieces of masonry and brickwork can also be seen. There is, however, much that is not obvious to the uninitiated and you could be forgiven for asking what did we get for The Heritage Lottery Fund's money (and that of our own St Mary's Building Trust). Rest assured, there was a lot of joinery work, now hidden under the new roofs, and much of the masonry and brickwork restoration cannot be seen clearly from ground level. There were in fact no fewer than one hundred and sixty sections where stones or bricks needed to be restored or replaced. Although we had some very wet weather, we were also lucky in that we had a very mild Winter. The use of lime mortar was essential and that will not cure in frosty conditions. In practice there were only a few days when restoration could not continue and any time lost was soon made up.

There are lots of photographs of the work and when the dust has settled we will explain in some detail what has been done. Suffice it to say that, thanks to the grants received and especially the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, we hope that the exterior of St Mary's is in sufficiently good order to serve our Parish for another fifty years. In parallel with the restoration work we have been looking at ways of making our unique heritage more accessible. We are improving our web pages and the literature in the church and shop and will be holding a heritage exhibition; all aimed at attracting more support for St Mary's and investigating ways of how the church can be used better to serve our community.

All the hard work has not been just so that we have a nice church building in the centre of our village. We now need our parishioners to support the church and to welcome our new Priest-in-Charge. Without your support we will have

ABBOTS ANN POST OFFICE

A sunny forecast for holidaymakers as prices fall abroad

There's good news for holidaymakers planning trips in 2016 as the Worldwide Holiday Costs Barometer from Post Office Travel Money reveals that prices are down in over half of the 44 resorts and cities surveyed. Three-quarters of the Post Office's 40 bestselling currencies are weaker against sterling compared to a year ago and with accompanying local resort price cutting: the majority of holidaymakers heading overseas should find that their money stretches further.

Prices plummet by up to 31% in over half of resorts and cities worldwide.

19% fall makes Portugal's Algarve cheapest for UK tourists

Cape Town/South Africa offers best buy long haul value

There are up to 80 currencies available for purchase through Post Office Ltd from Australian Dollars to Vietnamese Dong. Order your currency before 3pm on a working day to get next working day delivery to your nearest Post Office branch. Post Office Ltd buys back any currency that you do not use. Abbotts Ann Post Office holds US Dollars and Euros in stock in Branch

Special Stamps

The Queen's 90th birthday stamps go on sale from 21st April 2016

On 5th April 2016 Royal Mail will issue a new set of Shakespeare stamps (featuring quotes from his works) to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of his death.

Shakespeare is one of the most quoted English writers. It's not surprising given the volume and quality of works that Shakespeare wrote – along with the enduring popularity of his plays and sonnets around the world – that virtually everyone can quote Shakespeare, even if at times they don't know they're doing it!

Take your pick from the selection of quotes by Shakespeare below:

- "Is this a dagger which I see before me?"
- "To be or not to be"
- "Once more unto the breach"
- "What light through yonder window breaks"
- "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears"

Maureen Flood - Sub Post Mistress



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Shop Manager: Tim Abram
Deputy Shop Manager: Carol Murphy
Sub Post Mistress: Maureen Flood

April 2016

Pizza Night

Pizza nights are going really well, a most successful venture. Make a note -

The next Pizza night is **Friday 8th April**
5pm to 7pm

Order in advance and collect at a time convenient to you.

Weekly Promotions

The shop has started offering weekly specials. Every Monday morning the specials shelf will be stocked with different products. It could be a wine week, a cleaning materials week, a sweet tooth week – a weekly surprise. Come in for a bargain.

Flower Pots

You may have noticed that we have introduced some Spring flowering pots from Hannah's flowers – an ideal gift, or just something to cheer up a dull corner.

Greetings Cards

We continue to stock an amazing selection of greetings cards, all reasonably priced – from £1.30 to £2.90. We have displays of cards by Gail and Kate, plus a new addition – Photographic cards.

Homemade Soups

Try our new selection of homemade soups, available in the chiller.

Books

All books for sale on the book shelf are now only 50p each.

Advertise on the TV Screen

You can let people know what you are helping to organise in the village by advertising on our TV screen. It is in effect a slide show on a loop so there is always something to catch the viewer's eye. Send your items to Tim at - abbottsvillageshop@gmail.com

Date to Remember for April

Friday 8th April – Pizza Night.

*Elizabeth Howard
Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

wasted our time. So please join us and make use of our unique church. St Mary's is there for us all.

Finally, a big thank you to my project team of Gillian Barrett, Ray Lucas, Tim Tayler, my fellow churchwarden Sally Dashwood and of course my wife Elizabeth (for putting up with me for the past two years). Their expertise and unfailing support have been invaluable.

*Gordon Howard
Churchwarden and Project Manager*

Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

heritage
lottery fund

HOLY DUSTERS NEEDED URGENTLY

After four months of sawing, drilling and hammering whilst major works have been going on, and during which our volunteers found it very difficult to gain entry into the church to clean it, there is an accumulation of dust and cobwebs in the church which needs our attention. Woodwork and floors require washing down and polishing, not just the usual dusting. Can you please help? If so please phone Jill Tayler on 710201.

CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP - ST MARY'S CHURCH ABBOTTS ANN

Please help to clean up the churchyard and church path on Friday 1st of April or Saturday 2nd, whichever is more convenient for you, as much time as you can spare from 0930. After the Winter gales, there are lots of branches and twigs, plus some leaves left over from the Autumn, to gather in and burn; so that the grass cutters can do their work.

Gordon Howard - Churchwarden

ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE FETE 2016

A date for your diary

The Fete this year will be 3rd September. If you would like to consider getting involved in a fun and friendly committee the fete are looking for a new Secretary to take the minutes of our monthly meetings and distribute electronically to our members. If you are interested please contact Lisa Hillier on 710231 or 07535 630 266 for more information.

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS SINCE THE BUILDING OF THE CURRENT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our Grade 1 listed parish church was built in 1716 and now that it has been restored to its former glory we plan to hold a series of events over the Summer in celebration of its tercentenary. These will include:-

Sunday 17th April St Mary's Church – The building

10am Service of thanksgiving for the successful completion of the recent major repairs funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. (Includes a talk by the project architect Duncan Wilson.)

Friday 17th June 'Chapter & Verse' Concert

This popular entertainment makes a return visit to the War Memorial Hall.

Friday 1st July Abbotts Ann Primary School church service

10am service to celebrate The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Public welcome to attend.

Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th July. St Mary's Church in the wider community,

Saturday 23rd July

Flower festival – all day Saturday and Sunday.

History exhibition.

Ploughman's lunch (Saturday)

Abba's Angels tribute band concert, Old Rectory garden – bring your own picnic (Saturday evening).

Peal attempt by Ancient Society of College Youths (Sunday afternoon).

Cream teas (Sunday)

'Songs of Praise' service (Sunday evening).

Sunday 4th September - St Mary's Church and its people

Evensong led by the Bishop of Basingstoke.

If you have any queries about, or suggestions for, this programme please contact Tim Tayler on 710201 or Lynne Lucas on 710037, or for Flower Festival matters Elizabeth Howard on 710830 (see below).

TERCENTENARY FLOWER FESTIVAL 23rd & 24th July 2016

As part of St Mary's Tercentenary celebrations we plan to hold a Flower Festival over the weekend 23rd & 24th July. I am looking for helpers to make this possible by arranging the flowers. Also, you are most welcome to sponsor an arrangement, perhaps in memory of a loved one. In either case, should you wish to be involved please contact me, Elizabeth Howard on 710830.

Bring-and-Buy Plant Sale & Table-Top Sale

Saturday 28th May 2016

10 am – 12.30 pm

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

Refreshments, raffle,

crafts – and much more!

ALL PROCEEDS FOR FETE FUNDS

For more information contact Anne
on 710851 or 07788 645723

ST MARY'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church Abbotts Ann will hold its Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th April. All parishioners will be very warmly welcomed. For more information, contact: Jo Brookes Tel 07967 484581.

CONTEMPLATIVE DAYS

From Sight to Insight – Journeying with Christ in Modern Art

The Revd Jenny Ellis is leading a series of Contemplative Days at her home, Batts Row Cottage, Laverstoke Lane, Nr Whitchurch, RG28 7PA. Each session begins at 9.30 am for 10.00 am and ends at 4.00 pm.

The cost is £12 per session, including refreshments, light lunch and materials.

The sessions and themes are as follows:-

April – The Resurrection

Saturday April 16th, repeated Monday April 18th

May – the coming of the Spirit

Wednesday May 25th

June – Living Well

Begun Saturday June 11th and completed Saturday June 18th

If this is of interest to you, please book with Jenny at
jenny.battsrow@gmail.com or on 01256 892 895

Rev. Nicky Judd

Jumble Sale

Venue: Abbotts Ann Primary School Hall

Date: Saturday, 16th April 2016

Time: 1.00pm

Entry: 50p

Fundraising for outside play and sports equipment

100

CLUB

JANUARY 2016 DRAW WINNERS

First Prize : Mr G Whyte

Second Prize : Mrs M Butt

Third Prize : Mr M Butt

FEBRUARY 2016 DRAW WINNERS

First Prize : Mrs P Whyte

Second Prize : Mr S Broome

Third Prize : Mr R Lucas

MARCH 2016 (LOSERS') DRAW WINNERS

First Prize : Mr J Barlow

Second Prize : Mr J Anderson

Third Prize : Ms P Hinchcliffe

LOCAL HOUSING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

In the week beginning April 11th the Abbotts Ann Village Housing Survey questionnaire will drop on your mat.

Why? Because two major concerns mentioned at the 2013 Abbotts Ann Vision community consultation were:

People who grow up in Abbotts Ann or have close family connections can't afford to live here

People who have lived in Abbotts Ann – perhaps for many years – want to down-size but can't find a smaller property in our village

The 2013 community consultation gave a snap-shot of what Abbotts Ann people want. Now the Parish Council in association with Abbotts Ann Vision would like to get a clearer picture of the housing needs of the village.

If the survey confirms the need and shows that villagers would support such development in principle, we would expect that no more than fifteen houses would be built: a small development for the village, controlled by the village. The survey would also provide information that would help to resist over-sized development proposals like the recent Richborough Estates application.

Your opinion matters. Please complete the questionnaire as soon as you can after you receive it. The closing date will be 30th April.

Full details will come with your copy of the questionnaire but if you have any questions now please contact:

Ray Lucas: raylucas@gmail.com 01264 710037 or

John Moon: john.moon@madafish.com 01264 710123 or

John Patience: patiencejp@aol.com 01264 710001 or

David Read: david.read@mybroadbandmail.com 01264 710090

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING IN AID OF AUTISM SUPPORT

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the collection of used inkjet cartridges and laser toner cartridges in the village shop. For each cartridge recycled, a donation is made to the charity *Autism Support*.

Ever-increasing postage rates mean that recycling of individual cartridges is no longer very cost-effective so, if you use a printer, please keep putting your empty cartridges in the collection box in the shop. It is located in the corner of the windowsill near the fridge.

Only original branded cartridges can be processed at present, not compatibles.

Julie Moon, shop volunteer

ABBOTTS ANN WI - FEBRUARY 2016

Kate Bennett, our President, reported that the feedback on our annual dinner at our January meeting had been very positive and we have already booked the caterers for 2017! The proceeds of our monthly coffee mornings, and donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards, had totalled £128.00 and this has now been sent to the local Parkinsons support group.

Future plans were touched upon and then our speaker arrived. Whilst the winter has been relatively warm and spring has come early, nothing could have prepared us for Susan Howe. She admitted that despite excellent directions, she had missed the village hall and nearly ended up in a ditch. Not sure where that was, but she had been rescued, and escorted, to the right place by a soldier in full camouflage. Yes in Abbotts Ann! Some girls have all the luck.

Her talk was entitled "Cantering through a Funny Life" and it does appear that Susan has had a somewhat eventful life. Despite her mother warning her that she wouldn't stick at anything, Susan has been a Blue Badge Guide for over 30 years, but before that she was temporarily PA to John Betjeman, despite not having any secretarial skills, especially a lack of typing ability. Nevertheless, they hit it off and struggled successfully through her 12 month stint. At the start of her career she lived in London where her flat was located amidst an armed siege; one of her best friends is Jan the daughter of the vet Donald Sinclair, on whom the character Siegfried Farnon was based in the TV series All Creatures Great & Small. Susan stayed with the family frequently and it appears in real life he was even more eccentric than as portrayed on screen by Robert Hardy. I daren't even get started on Thomas a Beckett's toenail! She certainly made us laugh and was like a breath of fresh air.

For those of you who read last month's report, you will recall we had asked for limericks this month, alas there was but one anonymous entry

*There once was a President called Kate
Who went on an extraordinary date
In Andover she dined
Her beau gave her wine
And she ended up coming home late*

Our meeting next month is on 28th April (7.30 pm in the village hall) and we will be hearing all about Salisbury, courtesy of Andrew Negus.

We were delighted to welcome several new faces to our meeting this month and perhaps we should reiterate that it is possible to try before you buy. You don't have to commit straightaway, so if you have been pondering on paying us a visit, then please do so as we would love to meet you.

Sharon King



ABBOTTS ANN GREEN ACTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday April 27th at 7.30pm
War Memorial Hall**

Presentation by the Climate Justice Ambassadors*

Community Energy – the next steps

Elections for a new committee

Discuss what AAGA is doing and plans to do

Enjoy a glass of wine or Abbotts Ann Apple Juice

*The Climate Justice Ambassadors are children aged 8 to 14 who are part of a global movement to plant trees and achieve climate justice around the world. They have received training in putting across their message. AAGA invites you to come to hear from the generation who will inherit the planet from their parents and grandparents.

NEW FOOTPATH INAUGURAL WALK



To celebrate the opening of the new footpath from Andover Garden Centre to the A303 bridge on Salisbury Road, as announced in the March parish magazine, an inaugural walk will take place on Saturday 16th April. This permissive path has been negotiated by Abbotts Ann Vision in order to provide a safe pedestrian route between the village and the edge of Andover.

We will meet at the village shop at 10am and walk along Church Path and Green Lane to the Garden Centre roundabout. From there we will walk the length of the new path, and then return along the path to the Garden Centre for refreshments. People can then either walk back to the village via Green Lane or take the shorter route along Cattle Lane.

Anyone who does not want to walk so far can park at the Garden Centre and join in the walk at about 10:45. Do come and join us!

Julie Moon (Abbotts Ann Vision)